from them considered boorish. Self-control has been highly es
teemed, even though temperamentally so many of the Chinesi
are excitable. The serving of tea is part of the ritual of every call
whether for business or pleasure. Usually a request from one';
host to drink one's tea has been a sign that the interview is at ai
end. Certain inquiries have been considered proper which in th<
Occident are usually thought of as impertinent, such as one's ag<
and income. In meeting a friend or acquaintance in the street, i:
he is mounted or in a sedan chair courtesy has required that recog-
nition be avoided. Otherwise good form would necessitate his
stopping, dismounting, and going through the greetings which con«
vention prescribes. The giving and receiving of presents have beer
regulated by conventions which indicate when a gift should be
offered or accepted and, if accepted, how much of it should be
sent back and what should be given in return. In eating, spoons
and what the foreigner calls chopsticks are used and the food
brought on in such a state that it can be easily handled by these
implements. To the Chinese of the old school the Western custom
of bringing meat to the table in great lumps and then dismember-
ing it with knife and fork must have appeared quite barbarous.
Calling cards were formerly much larger than those now in use
in the West. The possession of one by a person other than the
owner has been supposed to be evidence of authorization to act
as a messenger or agent. Dress has been carefully regulated,
various forms of garb being prescribed for different occasions.
Some of the customs are confusing to the foreigner and even amus-
ing, but they have been means, as are polite conventions in all
lands, of keeping society moving pleasantly and

with the minimum of friction.

Perhaps here should also be mentioned the custom of gratuities to servants and to those in other positions who have been of use to one. Such gifts have been and are expected. It was and is customary for servants and others to take a proportion of what passes through their hands—"squeeze," as the foreigner has denominated it. The proportion is not always standardized, and the practice easily admits of abuses. Squeeze, however, has been regarded as a legitimate perquisite of position, from that of a servant to that of an official high in the public service, and unless excessive has not been regarded as in any way dishonest.